

From: Mark A. Seaver
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:15pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement opinion

As a long standing member of the computing world, I feel that the current "settlement" with Microsoft is light handed at best. To call it a "slap on the wrist" as many have, does not go far enough in my mind.

I have been involved in the microcomputing and personal computing industry since 1982. In that time I have seen many companies attempt to go head to head with Microsoft, only to lose significant market share due to unfair trade practices. Companies with much larger market shares and far superior products have dwindled to a bare existence, if they have survived at all. Much of this is due to predatory pricing and aggressive "behind-the-scenes" deals that force products off the shelf in favor of Microsoft backed products.

As the former Vice-President of Operations for a pioneer PC manufacturer and developer, our firm watched as Microsoft forced us to bundle their operating system with our hardware, or face losing the ability to sell their product at all. If systems were found to have alternate operating systems loaded on them, even if at the customers requests, we would be heavily sanctioned by Microsoft if not cut off from all product entirely. Needless to say, we complied, if only to survive.

I hope that the Department of Justice will step back and look at the damage and devastation that Microsoft has caused in this industry, forcing computer manufacturers to bundle inferior products and causing on going consternation in the consumers minds. Technical support facilities have to be staffed with more personal than necessary in order to handle the flood of calls whenever new products are introduced, with a great deal of the problems caused by products forced upon the public by an all too powerful company, with an unnatural monopolistic hold on the market.

I hope that you will consider this information as you move forward as well as the other letters and e-mails that you have and will receive on this matter.

Thank you for your time

Mark A. Seaver

=====

Mark A. Seaver maseaver@earthlink.net
Information Systems Director 949-366-4950 (Tel)
The Consumer's Choice Network 760-944-7583 (Fax)
2033B San Elijo Avenue, Suite 420, Cardiff, CA 92007
ICANN, Member at Large

=====